



Clallam Conservation District

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MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting March 19, 2008

Supervisors Present: Don Hatler, Nash Huber, Ben Smith

Associate Supervisors Present: Walter Forsberg

Staff Present: Joe Holtrop, District Manager; Meghan Adamire, Jennifer Coyle-Bond, Gary Dougherty: Conservation Planners

Others present: Marilyn Pollock, Clea Rome, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

Ben Smith called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Nash Huber moved to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2008 meeting. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

REPORTS

Staff Reports

Meghan Adamire – Meghan reported that she had a couple site visits, one to Rick Leffler for a potential Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program project and one to B&T Cattle Co. to work on developing a nutrient management plan. Over 250 orders were received for the plant sale and only 150 plants were left over from the sale and they were donated to Clallam County Public Works for planting at the wetland mitigation site on Old Olympic Highway. She also had a site visit to Bob and Ann Sextro's horse-boarding facility on Kitchen-Dick Road. They have 18 acres and board 17 horses as well as manage a hay field. They would like assistance with developing a farm plan and possibly applying for funding for a manure storage structure.

Nash Huber moved to accept Bob & Ann Sextro as District Cooperators. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

Meghan also worked with Rebecca Paradis to finalize her farm plan. Rebecca would like to apply for cost-share funding for 185 feet of fencing to fence her cattle out of Liljedahl Creek. The average buffer width would be 45 feet. She plans to plant the area this spring with native conifer trees and would like to apply for alternative livestock watering in the next couple months.

Nash Huber moved to approve the cost-share application with Rebecca Paradis for exclusion fencing at a cost-share rate of 75% and a total district cost of \$485.62. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

Jennifer Coyle-Bond – Jennifer reported that she gave a presentation at a Washington State University Extension workshop on sustainable small farming. She also reported that Ted and Shirley Crosby have begun construction of their waste storage facility cost-share project. Also, Jennifer recently updated the Olympic Game Farm's (OGF) conservation plan and created a livestock exclusion fencing plan for addressing water quality concerns raised by the Department of Ecology (DOE) on a ditch located in the buffalo field. The Board suggested that we continue to offer financial assistance to OGF for fencing and communicate directly with DOE about the importance of maintaining a cooperative relationship with OGF because of current efforts to setback the Dungeness River dike to Ward Road (on OGF property).

Gary Dougherty - Gary reported that he is spending most of his time settling in and becoming familiar with the office and computer system. He is also working with the larger projects, like Lake Farm and Three Crabs, which Clea had previously managed.

Joe Holtrop – Joe reported that the Clallam-Cline project is moving along with completion of the Sky Ridge Lateral. The Dungeness Irrigation District project is also moving forward. He reported that several farmers would like to convert to a low-pressure irrigation system. The District was awarded a Pioneers in Conservation Grant to straighten the ninety-degree bends on a section of Matriotti Creek located on Danny Smith's farm. Enrolling this section of stream in CREP is the real environmental benefit but rounding off the stream bends is needed before CREP can be pursued because of reoccurring flooding. CREP will be used as match for the Pioneers in Conservation grant.

Joe also reported that he has attended several Salmon Recovery meetings because the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity group (NOPE) changed from representing watershed resource inventory areas (WRIAs) 18, 19 and 20 to just 18 and 19 and need to update their strategy. Over 100 people attended the Low Impact Development (LID) forum.

In response to the Board's request at the last monthly meeting, Joe reported that for 2007 the Toyota 4-Runner was driven 6,720 miles and the Chevrolet S-10 pickup was driven 1,071 miles. Don asked that Joe investigate how many private miles were logged in 2007. Gary looked into piggy backing with the County on purchasing a vehicle, unsure if that is a possibility at this point.

Joe also asked the Board for their thoughts on what project to highlight for 2007 and the board supported highlighting the Stormwater Manual. Joe was asked if the City of Sequim has requested assistance to address stormwater issues. Joe replied that a copy of the stormwater manual was given to Jim Bay on disk; however, he pointed out that the stormwater manual developed for the County is designed for rural areas, not urban.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reports – Clea Rome, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Coordinator, reported that Gus Hughbanks, State Conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be visiting Clallam County. Also, NRCS is undergoing a national audit at the state level. Clea encouraged the Board to attend the RC&D council meetings and Joe H. indicated that he planned to attend the next meeting. Clea emphasized that a partnership between the District & RC&D is important and hoped for further collaboration.

Treasurer's Report

Don Hatler moved to approve the January financial report and approve for payment those checks described as 6646 to 6667 in the total amount of \$29,605.10. Nash Huber seconded. Motion approved.

Janell said that an internal audit is needed and that at least one board member will need to be at the audit. Don offered to assist with the audit and commented that he had recently helped with an audit of the Plant Materials Center (PMC), which he found to be a very well-run organization.

Announcements/Public Comment – Nash Huber recently learned that the County is proposing changing the zoning definition of agriculture used in current County Code. The new definition seems too narrow according to Nash and he plans on attending the meeting this evening to offer public testimony and learn more about the proposed changes. He is concerned that the proposed definition will limit the abilities of small farmers to directly market their products to the public (through the use of road-side stands, etc.).

OLD BUSINESS

New Board Member Election Certification– Joe Holtrop reported that the new supervisor will not be official until the June Board meeting after the Conservation Commission certifies the election at their May meeting.

Clallam Ditch Company Request – The Clallam Ditch Company asked for financial assistance to create as-built drawing packets for the Clallam-Cline project. NRCS has agreed to complete the as-built drawings but the Clallam Ditch Company would like additional information assembled and packaged with the as-built drawings. Joe H. said he would amend the current agreement with Clallam Ditch Company to cover the additional costs of assembling the

final, as-built drawing packets. It was suggested that the District have the opportunity to approve the product developed by the Ditch Company before making final payment.

NEW BUSINESS

Nash Huber moved to send \$100 to support the NACD Capitol Court Project in Washington DC. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

Don Hatler moved to pay \$100 in annual dues to the RC&D. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

Memorandum of Agreement with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JKT) – Joe H. presented a memorandum of agreement with JKT for restoration projects in the Meadowbrook Creek area. This money would be used as matching funds for the planned piping project on a Dungeness Irrigation District ditch (approximately 5,000 feet) and installing approximately 600 feet of livestock exclusion fencing.

Nash Huber moved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement for the Meadowbrook Creek BMP project with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe totaling \$55,000. Don Hatler seconded. Motion approved.

Executive Session - 5:15-6:15 – Employee Performance Reviews

Don Hatler moved to give Jennifer Coyle-Bond a two-step increase to Range 50, step G, effective March 1st. Nash Huber seconded. Motion approved.

Don Hatler moved to give Joe Holtrop a one-step increase to Range 62, step J, effective March 1st. Nash Huber seconded. Motion approved.

Review of Official Actions of Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.